

Along with the church leaders, many early deacons and wives were responsible for the welfare of the church. Among them were deacons: L.A. Hines, Robert Lathan, C.L. Lofts, Tom Eskridge, Ed McCall, Percy Paul and Bill Hannal and their wives.

Little Zion's present leader is Reverend McAuther McKinnley. Under his leadership the church has blossomed. For 21 years Rev. McKinnley has been responsible for carrying on what Rev. Reynolds started 144 years ago.

Today, Little Zion honors those who took the leadership roles and passed the torch on to the present leaders. Ten years ago, an historical marker was placed on the site of the church. This marker was important because it was a symbol of the long history and struggle of the delta.

Little Zion thanks the fore-parents for making those days possible through the good and bad days it still stands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lithe Zion Missionary Baptist Church for its dedication to serving our great country.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF MR. TIMOTHY BROWN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued staff member of the Office of Legislative Counsel—Mr. Timothy Brown—who is retiring this month after 37 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

The Office of Legislative Counsel is an essential but oftentimes unheralded part of our Congressional support staff. Every bill and amendment we consider in the House of Representatives is drafted with the aid of the professionals in this office. In the course of my two decades of service on the Science Committee, Tim has aided me and my staff innumerable times in the drafting of legislation and amendments. While Tim's background is that of a lawyer, he has worked with the Science Committee staff to draft so many NASA, NSF, and NIST authorizations over the years, that Tim has become, in many respects, a science and space policy expert. In his quiet way, Tim taught the art of applying critical thinking to legislative drafting, and our bills were the better for it. Tim's expertise and dedication to his craft will be sorely missed on the Science Committee.

While we will miss Tim, I hope after nearly four decades of service, that Tim will not miss us too much. I'm sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sally, and his four children, Andrew, Alex, Emily, and Olivia. Hopefully Tim will have more time to pursue his passions like his love of basketball. Perhaps it's fitting that Tim is retiring in the midst of the NCAA March Madness.

We often speak of the dedicated staff who make this institution such a wonderful place in which to work. It is the sense of this Congresswoman that Tim Brown is just such a person. The Science Committee's Members and staff wish him well as he moves on to new endeavors and a relaxing retirement. I

thank Tim, for his many years of dedicated and loyal service.

#### HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT R. BONIFACE

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On March 19, 2017, Sergeant First Class Robert R. Boniface of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically lost his life in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. SFC Boniface was 34 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.

SFC Boniface entered the Army in March 2006 as an 18 X-ray. After Infantry Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he attended Airborne School before being assigned to the Special Warfare Center and School. SFC Boniface completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning his Green Beret in 2010 and was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant.

Boniface's military education includes the Special Operations Jumpmaster Course, Senior Leader Course, Combat Diver Qualification Course, Special Forces Diving Medical Technician Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, Special Operations Combat Medic Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course, Basic Leaders Course, and the U.S. Army Static Line Airborne Course.

SFC Boniface's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, three Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Combat Diver Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words I, this body of Congress, or the Nation can say that might assuage the bereavement of the Boniface family. All I can say is on behalf of a humble and grateful Nation, we thank them for the love, counsel, and support given to Robert, which helped make him the hero he became both in uniform and as a father. His life stands as a testament that freedom is not free, and his legacy will echo in time as an example of the ultimate sacrifice for all free people. I pray that God will be with Robert's wife, Rebekah; his daughter, Mia Elia, and all their family and friends during this time of great mourning, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING ALICE ELIZABETH GRANT HOGANS

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Alice Elizabeth Grant Hogans on the occasion of her retirement, having served for 16 years on the House Appropriations Committee. In total, she has provided more than 25 years of distinguished, quiet service to our country. Her dedication to public service and integrity stands as a model for us all.

Alice, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. She also earned a Master of Philosophy Degree in International Finance from the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Alice began her career in Washington, D.C. in 1989 as a staff assistant at the Congressional Budget Office. From there, she rose to the position of budget analyst in the Scorekeeping Unit in 1990 before leaving for graduate school in Scotland in 1993. In 1995, she accepted a position with the Senate Committee on the Budget under the leadership of Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-NM) and staff director Bill Hoagland. She was the Analyst for International Affairs until beginning her dedicated service to the House Appropriations Committee in 2001. Alice began on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee as professional staff in 2001, and spent time as professional staff on the Treasury-Transportation, HUD Subcommittee, and the Financial Services Subcommittee before ending up back on State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee in 2011, where she was responsible for overseeing spending for global health programs, including HIV/AIDS, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and trade promotion agencies such as the U.S. Export-Import Bank, and several related agencies.

Alice's contributions extend beyond her role on the Appropriations Committee. For years, she was the Treasurer of the Board for the non-profit Combined Federal Agencies Child Development Center, and a volunteer at her church and children's elementary school.

As we all know, congressional staff work countless hours and through countless holiday seasons in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Alice than her supportive and loving family, her husband Dan, her children, James and Catherine, and of course, her mother and sister.

Mr. Speaker, while Alice is leaving this institution, she will not be forgotten. Her good humor, faithful service, and commitment to excellence has left a lasting imprint on all of us and on the departments and agencies for which she was responsible. I wish Alice and her family well as she enters this new chapter of her life and ask my colleagues to join me in expressing my appreciation for her contributions to our country.

HONORING MS. GERLINE “PANKY  
GARVIN” MUHAMMAD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Black historical figures in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. So today, I give honor to Ms. Gerline “Panky Garvin” Muhammad of the Blue Cane Community outside of Charleston, Mississippi located in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

Ms. Muhammad was born November 9, 1953. She is the mother of six children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She attended Allen Carver High School in Charleston and is a graduate of Amhurst Career Center, where she was honored with many awards and recognitions.

Ms. Muhammad is a well-known champion of equal and civil rights. She was a member of the Tallahatchie County Redistricting Committee allowing for the first African American to be elected to the Tallahatchie County Board of

Supervisors. Ms. Muhammad is the executive director of the Tallahatchie County Citizens of Change. The organization is established to stimulate and motivate change in thinking and behavior within African Americans in communities of Tallahatchie County. Their work is carried out through an intergenerational model approach that works on improving political awareness, community organizing, assisting veterans, legal redress, civic participation and more. Ms. Muhammad is also a member of the Tallahatchie County Branch of the NAACP where she served as the first vice-president, chairman of the education committee, and now as the chairman of the membership committee.

Ms. Muhammad has been involved in many long-term community commitments in the county. She teaches at the summer tutoring program, hosts back to school rallies, organizes door to door community events, and helps veterans pursue their veteran benefits. She started the P16 Council for the East Tallahatchie School District and is a member of the Dropout Prevention Committee for the school district. To encourage reading among African Americans, she started a book club in

the Brooksville community. She works with young entrepreneurs in the community to help improve the future presence of African American business in Black communities.

Ms. Muhammad is a former member of the Jerusalem M.B. Church in Paynes, MS where she was the church secretary, Jr. Sunday School teacher, chairman of vocational bible school and church programs committee, and treasurer for the choir. In 1992, Ms. Muhammad joined the Nation of Islam under the local leadership of Minister James Muhammad and national leader, the most honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. She served as the LT Captain of the Meetings, and received LT Captain of the year at mosque Number 78 Tupelo, MS. Now she is the Chairman of 10,000 Fearless, which is a justice movement in Tallahatchie County. As you can see Ms. Muhammad has been active in and around Tallahatchie County working fearlessly and consistently for 46 years to foster change and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Gerline “Panky Garvin” Muhammad of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.